

Hope Bennett, Chair
Caroline Kunitake, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Li Dotson, Member
Valerie Lam, Member
Raven Sevilleja, Member
Helen Stewart, Member
Renee Sonobe Hong, Ex-Officio

Honolulu County Committee
on the Status of Women
*Kōmike Kāko 'o Wāhine o ke
Kalana 'o Honolulu*

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

925 Dillingham Boulevard, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 1, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Kapālama Hale, Conference Room 269
925 Dillingham Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawai'i
Via ZOOM

1. Call to Order

Committee Members present: Hope Bennett, Caroline Kunitake, Valerie Lam, Helen Stewart, Raven Sevilleja and Ex-Officio Member Renee Sonobe Hong

Committee Members absent: Jennifer Li Dotson

Staff Resources Personnel for the Committee present at the meeting:

Shane Akagi, Administrator, DCS, Office of Grants Management (OGM)

Katherine Hutchinson, DCS/OGM

Tammy Ngo, DCS/OGM

Rebecca Espinoza, DCS/OGM

Spenser Kunishige, DCS/OGM

Kathleen Kelly, Deputy Corporation Counsel, assigned to the Committee

The meeting of the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women (HCCSW) was called to order by Chair Hope Bennett (Chair) at 1:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: July 7, 2023 Meeting

Chair Bennett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2023 Meeting. Member Sevilleja motioned to accept the Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Member Stewart. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Oral Testimonies and Written Testimonies from the Public

There was no oral (in person or online) testimony or written testimony for this meeting.

4. Testimony/Comments from Department Agencies

Mr. Akagi reported that the Office of Grants Management (OGM) is currently going through the budget process for the Fiscal Year 2025. The amount requested was the same as last year and there may be an opportunity to request for more. Mr. Akagi introduced Katherine Hutchinson as the division's new secretary and informed the Committee Members that OGM is currently in the middle of the Grants in Aid (GIA) contracting process. He shared he has also been in meetings with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to put together a disaster response plan in view of the Lahaina fire.

5. Vice-Chair Kunitake's Report: Hawaii Children's Action Network meeting on paid family leave

Vice-Chair Kunitake attended a web meeting which was held by the Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN) regarding Paid Family Leave and how individuals in the State are planning on approaching it in the upcoming legislative session. She will submit the HCAN PowerPoint and meeting details to the DCS staff to include with the HCCSW September 1, 2023 updated meeting materials. The action items that were discussed in the meeting were to have people join the Paid Leave Hawaii Coalition and to sign the Paid Leave Petition. Meeting participants included Representative Jeanne Kapela, Representative Amy A. Perruso and Kim Coco Iwamoto, President of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce. HCAN plans to produce a media toolkit and invite Ai-jen Poo, the President of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, to be a key speaker at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH Manoa) in support of Paid Family Leave that HCAN is organizing.

Valerie Lam joined the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

6. FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION: Pay Equity Project discussion and updates from Committee Members

Chair Bennett shared, researchers are finding the most disparity is in wage earners who are in higher income fields like finance and law. Member Stewart stated the Committee should rank order on time, financial resources and commitment in regards to supporting the Paid Family Leave and the Pay Equity Project. Chair Bennett mentioned the Committee would need to make a decision if they are going to target employers or community groups. She shared that the Hawaii Employers Council offered a physical space for a convening and will be a part of the process as far as outreach. Some things the Committee will need to narrow down is their target group in terms of who to approach and having a paid facilitator. Chair Bennett stated that the Committee should be realistic about what topic to pursue because they are a volunteer committee; it takes a significant commitment to develop something compared to being in support of something that has already been created.

Member Sevilleja shared she has a connection to the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, which collaborates with the other three (3) Chambers: Korean, Japanese and Chinese. She offered to facilitate the conversation with the Chambers. Chair Bennett asked if it was appropriate to have a one-on-one discussion or if it was possible to invite them to a HCCSW meeting. Kathleen Kelly stated either way is appropriate. One (1) or two (2) members could meet individually with the representatives that Member Sevilleja has a connection to or, one (1) or more of them could attend a HCCSW meeting and speak to all of the Committee Members at the same time. Member Sevilleja agreed to invite them to the next HCCSW meeting if they are available to attend.

Raven Sevilleja left the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Chair Bennett asked Committee Members to reach out to the representatives with businesses in the community to get an idea of what their interests are. The Committee Members can inform the representatives that the HCCSW is interested in potentially leading a movement towards issues revolving around Pay Equity in the work place.

7. FOR DISCUSSION: Agenda Setting for the Next Meeting

The Committee decided to continue the discussion on Vice-Chair Kunitake's Report: Hawaii Children's Action Network meeting on Paid Family Leave and the Pay Equity Project discussion.

8. Next Meeting: October 6, 2023

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. as a remote meeting via Zoom with an in-person location at Kapālama Hale.

9. Adjournment

Member Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Vice-Chair Kunitake seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion carried unanimously and Chair Bennett adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

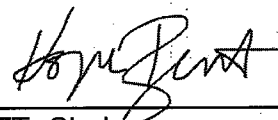


SHANE AKAGI, OGM Administrator

DATE

10/18/2023

APPROVED:



HOPE BENNETT, Chair